REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, and 13-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 31 is amended to correct an informality. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendment is merely to correct an informality; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 3-10 and 13-29.

The Office Action rejects claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,689,565 to Spies. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 30 recites, *inter alia*, that a first device encrypts prescribed data received from a second device to be verified with an encrypting means on the basis of first data stored in a first data memory means.

The Office Action alleges that the user (i.e. participants 22 (a), 22 (b) and 22 (c)) in Spies corresponds to the first device and that a credential binding server 26 in Spies corresponds to the second device. Spies teaches in column 9, lines 3-11 that the participants generate a digital signature that is computed by hashing the data contained in the registration packet, and that once the hashing is computed, the data is encrypted by the computing unit of the participant with a private encryption key of a signing pair. Column 8, lines 25-28 of Spies teaches that the registration packet includes identification information (name, location, etc.), public cryptography keys unique to the participant, and a digital signature of the participant.
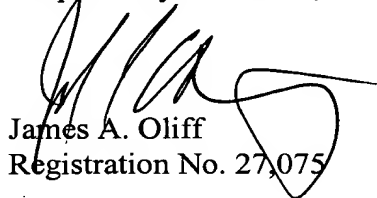
Spies does not teach or suggest that the registration packet for encryption is received from the credential binding server 26. Rather, according to Spies, the participant encrypts data of <u>his own</u>, not prescribed data <u>received from the second device</u> as recited in claim 30.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 is patentable over Spies. Claims 31 and 32 are patentable at least for their dependence on claim 30, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30-32 over Spies is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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